# Rebuild Michigan

May 2008

## Partner News

Rebuild Michigan is designed to foster partnerships, which will promote increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use within communities. The program focuses on community-based energy planning to insure that local needs are met and that a sustained local effort is established.

Community partnerships develop comprehensive energy use strategies and organize a coalition to work towards fulfilling community energy goals.

The partnerships identify energy efficiency opportunities in commercial, institutional and multi-family buildings and encourage installation of improvements that will yield the highest energy and cost savings.


Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Energy Office

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www.michigan.gov/eorebuild


## ►Community Partnership Update◄

**Urban Options** celebrated their 30-year anniversary of serving Michigan with energy and environmental solutions. In cooperation with the City of Lansing, they developed a Mid-Michigan seminar series for commercial building owners, that begins on May 20th. For details, see pg. 4 Upcoming Events. (Contact: Aileen Gow at aileen@urbanoptions.org)

**Northern Options** recently concluded a building owners workshop series in Marquette, which highlighted HVAC equipment care, monitoring utility bills, and energy retrofitting for older buildings. (Contact: Aileen Gow at aileen@urbanoptions.org)

**Michigan State University,** Kent County Extension, (MSUE) recently joined Rebuild MI as a community partner. They have identified 10 buildings for energy analyses and have completed five assessments for small commercial businesses. (Contact: Carol Townsend at townse36@msu.edu)

**The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability** leads another new community partnership, whose goal is provide environmental training for builders and building owners. To date, the Alliance has targeted several building owners for energy analyses, and have defined their coalition's partnership roles. (Contact: Jeannine Reynolds at rjeannine@gmail.com)

### Rebuild Michigan
### Community Partnership Grants

In February, the DLEG/Energy Office announced four grants totaling $77,849 to help launch community partnerships in Southeast Michigan and the city of Grand Rapids.

**Grant Recipients:**

Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center (Oakland County)

Michigan Suburbs Alliance (S.E. Michigan municipalities)

The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (City of Grand Rapids—Southern Zone)

Michigan State University/Kent County Extension (City of Grand Rapids—Central Zone)

## ►REBUILD MICHIGAN PARTNER UPDATE◄

Since January 2007 the Rebuild Michigan Program has enrolled sixty-two new public agency partners. The table to the right lists the most recent program partners and the square footage they have committed to energy improvements. The Rebuild MI team completed Introductory Energy Evaluations (IEEs) for these clients identifying the areas in which energy use could be reduced and recommending a more detailed technical energy analysis, if appropriate.

To view the complete list of new clients please go to www.michigan.gov/eorebuild and click on Rebuild MI Energy Services.

Currently there are 513 school districts, local governments, and public housing authorities enrolled in the Rebuild Michigan program, and have pledged more than 101,600,000 square feet to energy efficiency projects.

Public building owners that are seeking help in reducing their energy use through cost effective improvements may contact Tim Shireman at (517) 241-6281 or at shiremant@michigan.gov. Ask if there is a Community Partner in your area yet that can offer local assistance.

| Public Agency | Enrolled Sq. Footage |
|---|---|
| Gladwin Community Schools | 284,065 |
| Gobles Public Schools | 195,100 |
| Harper Creek Schools | 621,140 |
| Homer Community Schools | 150,358 |
| Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools | 90,636 |
| Kellogg Community College | 825,683 |
| Michigan Center Schools | 128,451 |
| Mona Shores Schools | 666,638 |
| Muskegon Public Schools | 740,633 |
| Napoleon Schools | 240,002 |
| Owen-Gagetown Schools | 54,060 |

## ►POWERING DOWN YOUR PC◄

Did you know that 50% of the electricity consumed by a PC is wasted? Typically transformed into heat, this wasted energy translates into higher electricity bills, which result from the increase in room temperature causing an increase in output for temperature regulation.

The wasted energy from PCs also creates emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, which has a negative impact on the Earth's climate. By simply enabling power management features, there is an annual savings of $60 in energy costs and the CO2 emissions from one average PC are cut by a half ton; cumulatively, that could add up to a savings of thousands of dollars per year and tons in CO2 .

Department of Energy data shows that each computer/monitor pair uses approximately $11 per month of energy if left on 24 hours, 7 days a week; and computers that use screen-savers or have applications constantly running consume even greater amounts of unneeded energy. By powering down the PC or activating the sleep mode energy consumption is reduced by 70%, that's 600 KWh per year! In addition, unplugging peripherals such as the printer or speakers when not in use creates a further energy savings of almost 10%.

In only a year the individual and group contributions will add up to significant cost reductions, so be sure to remember to power down the PCs in your work area and at home to conserve energy and save money.

For more power saving tips and to see how your partnership can help make a difference, go to www.climatesaverscomputing.org.

## ►DAYLIGHT ENHANCEMENT TECHNOLOGY◄

With summer on its way, it's not too soon to start thinking about ways to take advantage of the change in seasons to improve on energy efficiency. An often overlooked area of efficiency is natural lighting. In recent years there have been vast improvements in the efficiency and aesthetic appearance of skylights. When properly installed, a skylight can replace the daytime use of most lighting fixtures by up to twenty five percent. In addition, it has been documented that natural lighting improves employee productivity, satisfaction, and overall visual appeal of the work area.

Skylights come in several shapes and sizes, however, some common misconceptions are that you need a relatively large frame to let in the optimal amount of lighting and the costs outweigh the benefits. This is not always the case.

A newer and fairly inexpensive model is the 'Tubular Skylight.' Starting at around $150 for a small basic model, the tubular skylight uses a reflective tube to direct as much sunlight as possible into the room below. They're relatively easy to install, fitting between rafters or other structural elements; and, according to tests conducted by the Alberta Research Council, one 13-inch tubular skylight has equivalent light output of up to one 700-watt incandescent bulb in December and one 1,200-watt incandescent bulb in June.

To research this article further you can go to www.toolbase.org and type in 'tubular skylights'.

## ►MORE ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS FOR SUMMER◄

Pay attention to your thermostat settings this time of season. According to Energy Star, for air-conditioning the thermostat setting should try to remain between 70°F & 78°F. When regulating heating, attempt to keep the thermostat settings firmly between 65°F & 70°F. These recommended temperatures will ensure that your energy costs will be kept at a minimum for any season.

## ►FEATURED PUBLICATIONS◄

### MSU's Wind Power Frequently Asked Questions

Michigan State University's Extension Wind Energy FAQ page explains how to identify what kind of wind turbine you need and the ideal area to place the turbine. The page also gives insightful information on financing and safety tips for contract signing.

http://web1.msue.msu.edu/wind/faqs.htm

### Air-Source Heat Pumps & Central Air Conditioners Purchasing & Procurement Language

Energy Star has created a page for business owners, to aid them in the understanding of technical language you may run a cross in purchasing new heating or cooling products.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=airsrc_heat.pr_proc_as_heat_pumps

### Managing Swimming Pool Water Temperature for Energy Efficiency

The Department of Energy EERE explains several ways to keep pool costs at a minimum all year round. In addition, it gives you money saving tips on the use of a pool cover and energy efficiency information on different types of pool pumps.

http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=13300

Publications are available via the DLEG Energy Office Publications page at www.michigan.gov or from above listed URL.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please email Stephanie Epps at eppss@michigan.gov

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## ►UPCOMING ENERGY EVENTS◄

### Rebuild Mid-Michigan Commercial Energy Seminar Series

**May 20th**
**8:00-4:30 pm**

Lansing Center
Lansing, MI
www.urbanoptions.org

### International Conference on Peak Oil & Climate Change

**May 30 – June 1**

Calvin College Fine Arts Center
Grand Rapids, MI
http://sustainabilityconference.org

### Green Procurement and Exposition Conference

**June 4-5**

Navy Pier
Chicago, IL
www.thegreenexposition.com

### Michigan Environmental Compliance Conference

**June 12th**

The Radisson Hotel
Kalamazoo, MI
www.greeningofthegreatlakes.com

### Michigan Energy Fair of 2008

**June 27-29th**

Manistee County Fair Grounds
Onekema, MI
www.glrea.org

### Advertise your future energy efficient events with the Rebuild Michigan Partner Newsletter!

*If your school district, community, or local facilities are hosting an energy event and you would like to advertise your event, email your requests to Stephanie Epps at eppss@michigan.gov and see your area's event in the next Rebuild MI Partner News.